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**From:** Communications Director  
**Sent:** Wed 8/26/2015 8:28:13 PM  
**Subject:** Clarification on Town of Silverton/San Juan County Position on Addressing Mining Issues  
[SilvertonSJ letter 08 26 2015.pdf](#)

In the last 24 hours there has been some misinformation circulated that led to misconceptions about where Silverton and San Juan County stand in regards to mining issues. The following statement is being sent to set the record straight:

We in Silverton and San Juan County want to make clear our position on the mining issues facing our community and our downstream neighbors.

We are not interested in playing the blame game. The past is the past and we all need to move forward to address the issues facing all of the communities in the Animas River Basin. This is a complex issue and we all need to work together to solve the issues.

To be clear, this community owns this problem and is committed to working with everyone. We have suggested applying for federal disaster relief as a way to get more resources on the ground immediately to address the impacts of the Gold King Mine Spill.

We want to get more resources on the ground immediately and that's why we think disaster funds are a good option.

At the same time we want to work with all our downstream partners on a longer-term solution - all options are on the table, including EPA and Superfund. We have not foreclosed any options.

Signed by County Commissioner Ernie Kuhlman and Mayor Chris Tookey (See <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/townofsilverton/atom/26866>)